

BIODIV News

Volume : 5 ■ Issue : 19 ■ April - June 2014

A Quarterly e-Newsletter



Elephant
Courtesy : Neeraj Mishra

Editorial

Dear Readers,

This quarter saw the celebration of the International Day of Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2014. The theme this year was "Island Biodiversity" though the state of Uttar Pradesh is a land locked state. People/Students participated enthusiastically in the events organized for the Biodiversity festival and IBD-2014.

– Editor

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Elephants
Courtesy : Neeraj Mishra

1- Save the Frogs Day 26-4-2014

“Save The Frogs Day” is the World's largest day of amphibian education and conservation actions. Frog populations have been declining worldwide at unprecedented rates and nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species are threatened with extinction. Up to 200 species have disappeared since 1980, and THIS IS NOT NORMAL. Amphibians go extinct naturally at a rate of only about one species every 250 years!

Only a small proportion of our public is aware that frogs are disappearing and amphibian conservation efforts will not be successful with an un-informed public. So, every year this event is celebrated on *last Saturday of April*. This day is celebrated with an aim to encourage the appreciation and celebration of amphibians by people from all walks of life.

The **6th Annual ‘Save the Frogs Day’** was celebrated on *April 26th, 2014* at Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow. The day was jointly celebrated by *U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow, Zoology Department, Lucknow University and Regional Science City, Lucknow*. An effort was made to encourage the students to save the frogs by organizing various competitions.

On this occasion, competitions like Poster making on *“Paint a pond for your frog”*, Rangoli competition on *“Frogs: as aquatic fauna”* and *“Open quiz”* were organized at Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow.

About **450** students from **25** schools (Mount fort inter College, Seth M.R. Jaipuria School, Mount Carmel School, Awadh Academy Inter College, Sri Ayodhya Singh Memorial Inter College, Tagore Memorial School, MLM School, Kendriya Vidyalaya, T D Girls Inter College, S K D Academy, St. Antony inter College. Hoerner College etc.) participated with great enthusiasm. Participants were felicitated with wildlife books and mugs as well as posters and pamphlets. The list of prize winners of the 'Save the Frogs Day' competitions is given below:

1- Painting Competition:

Junior Group- (class 4th -5th)

S.No	Name of the Student	School	Class	Prize
1	Yash Raj	S K D Academy	V	First
2	Shivendra Yadav	Kendriya Vidyalaya	V	Second
3	Huzma Khan	Seth M.R. Jaipuria School	IV	Third
4	Prachi Shukla	Awadh Academy Inter College	V	Consolation

Middle Group-(class 6th -8th)

S.No	Name of the Student	School	Class	Prize
1	Samriddhi Singh	Seth M.R. Jaipuria School	VIII	First
2	Divyanshu Badhauria	SKD Academy	VIII	Second
3	Ruchika Arora	St. Antony's Inter College	VII	Third
4	Sangeeta Kushwaha	T.D. Girls Inter College	VII	Consolation



Senior Group-(class 9th -12th)

S.No	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1	Pragya Gupta	Awadh Academy Inter College	XII	First
2	Divayanshi Badhuria	S K D Academy	VIII	Second
3	Ruchika Arora	St. Antony Inter College	VII	Third
4	Pooja Verma	T D Girls Inter College	IX	Consolation

2- Rangoli Competition:**Group- A (class 4th -8th)**

1	Ojeswi Khare	Mount Carmel School	VII	First
2	Anukrati Maurya	Mount Carmel School	VI	Second
3	Anshi Singh	Awadh Academy Inter College	IV	Third
4	Shashi Shukla	SASMI College	VIII	Consolation

Group- B (class 9th -12th)

1	Kirti Verma	Sri Ayodhya Singh Memorial Inter College	XII	First
2	Ishita Srivastava	Seth M.R. Jaipuria School	IX	Second
3	Shivani Tiwari	Mount Carmel School	XI	Third
4	Pooja Shah	Awadh Academy Inter College	XII	Consolation

3- Open Quiz Competition:**Group- A (class 4th -8th)**

1	Alisha	Mount Carmel School	VI	Frog Mug
2	Rini	Mount Carmel School	VII	Frog Mug
3	Swati	Mount Carmel School	VI	Frog Mug
4	Rishika	Mount Carmel School	VI	Frog Mug
5	Sanya	Mount Carmel School	VI	Frog Mug
6	Anukriti	Mount Carmel School	VI	Frog Mug

Group- B (class 9th -12th)

1	Muntaha	Mount Carmel School	IX	Frog Mug
2	Simran Verma	Mount Carmel School	IX	Frog Mug
3	Aditi	Mount Carmel School	IX	Frog Mug
4	Bhoomika	Mount Carmel School	IX	Frog Mug
5	Srushti Singh	SASMI School	IX	Frog Mug
6	Anuriti	Mount Carmel School	XI	Frog Mug
7	Astha	Mount Carmel School	IX	Frog Mug
8	Shiva	Mount Carmel School	IX	Frog Mug



Poster



Handbills



Brochure

Glimpses of the events organized on “Save the Frogs Day”

Participants at Regional Science City to Celebrate “Save the Frogs Day”



Students from various schools participating in Art competition



Painting made by the Participants



Students from various schools participating in Rangoli competition



Rangoli made by the Participants



Students from various schools participating in Open Quiz



Prizes and Certificate



Prize Distribution



Team of Winners



2-Biodiversity Festival

16th-21st May, 2014



The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity. This decade serves to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with the goal of significantly reducing biodiversity loss.



The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow celebrated "Biodiversity Festival" from 16th May to 21st May, 2014 at the Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow. The programme was jointly organized by the U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Zoology Department, Lucknow University and Regional Science City, Lucknow.

The idea was to spread the message of biodiversity conservation and importance of islands among the students. On this occasion, several competitions and workshops were organized. The details of the events are as follows:

Programme Schedule

S.No.	Date	Events/Time	
1	16-05-2014	Inauguration Time :10:30 -11:00 AM	Elocution Topic- "How to save our city's Biodiversity" . Time :11:30AM onwards
2	17-05-2014	Poster Competition Topic- "Island Biodiversity" Time :10:00-11:30AM	Workshop on "Bird watching" . Time :11:30AM onwards
3	18-05-2014	Power point presentation on "Island Biodiversity" Time :10:00 AM onwards	

4	19-05-2014	Rangoli Competition Topic “Island Biodiversity” Time :10:00-11:30AM	Workshop on “some Important Plants around your garden” . Time :11:30AM onwards
5	20-05-2014	Nukkad Naatak (short skit) “Save Biodiversity” Time :10:00-11:30AM	Workshop on “Common Insects around you” . Time :11:30AM onwards
6	21-05-2014	Quiz (open) on “Island Biodiversity” Time :10:00-11:00AM	Workshop on “Make your own small pond” Time :11:00-12:30

Valedictory Function
12:30 PM onward

Overall 350 students from different schools/colleges actively participated in various events organized during Biodiversity Festival. The prizes to the winners of different competitions were distributed on 22nd May 2014 by the Chief Guest Dr. S.W.A. Naqvi, Director, Indian Institute of Oceanography, Goa at the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow. The day wise events organized during the Biodiversity Festival including results and its glimpses are furnished below:

Day-1: 16th May 2014

Events started at Regional Science City with the inaugural speech by Mrs. Pratibha Singh (I.F.S), Conservator of Forests, U.P. State Biodiversity Board. The programme was aimed at sensitizing children about the importance of biodiversity in our daily lives. She also briefed about the various activities that were going to be held on the seven days of the Biodiversity Festival.

Different schools like L.P.S. Sahara States, K.V. Gomtinagar, R.L.B. C-Block, Mount Carmel, C.M.S. Aliganj, S.K.D. Academy, Study Hall actively participated in Elocution on the topic-**“How to save our city's Biodiversity”**. The lists of prize winners are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
2.	Paras Neeraj Sharma	L.P.S. Sahara State	7th A	Second
3.	Harsh Mishra	L.P.S. Sahara State	7th A	Third
4.	Vaibhav Gaur	RLB C-Block	8th A	Consolation

Group B (9th -12th Std.)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Shivangi Tandon	RLB C-Block	11th	First
2.	Anushka Katiyar	RLB C-Block	10th	Second
3.	Uroosa Jabeen	Lucknow Public College	12th	Third
4.	Nimisha Srivastava	RLB C-Block	12th	Consolation

Glimpses of Inaugural Session and Elocution



Lightening of lamp by the Chief Guest



Chief Guest addressing students



A view of student participating the event



A view of students

Day-2: 17th May 2014

Poster making competition was organized on the topic "Island Biodiversity". About **75** students from various schools like Riverside Academy, T. D. Girls Inter college, La Martiniere College, Prarthmik Vidhyalay, Gazipur, Bastauli, L.P.S. Sahara States, K.V. Gomtinagar, R.L.B. C-Block, Mount Carmel, C.M.S. Aliganj, S.K.D. Academy, Study Hall, P.M.S Vikasnagar, M.G.H Inter college, Awadh Academy Inter college participated enthusiastically in the event.

A workshop was also organized on "Bird Watching". Dr. Amita Kanaujia, Associate Professor, Zoology Department, Lucknow University, Lucknow explained various facts about birds such as their evolution, their behavior, feeding, nesting, their identification, threats to birds as well as how to protect birds. Her presentation included bird watching tips like right time for bird watching, the dos and don'ts during bird watching. The lists of prize winners are given below:

Name of the Competition: PAINTING/POSTER

Group A (4th-8th Std)

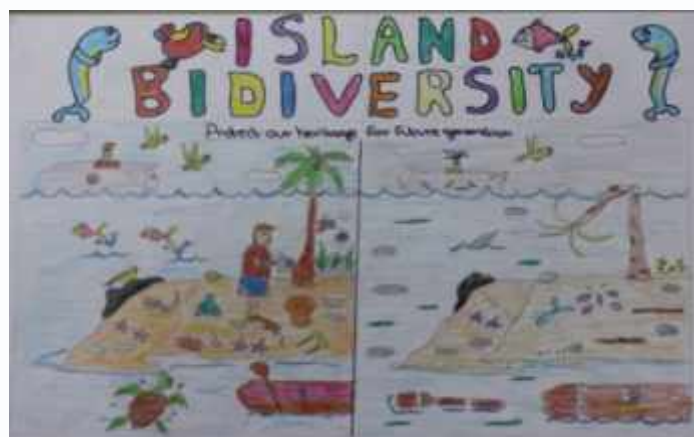
Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Shruti Tiwari	SKD Academy	8th B	First
2.	Shruti Pathak	SKD Academy	7th A	Second
3.	Risheet Singh	La Martiniere College	6th E	Third
4.	Kavisha	Study Hall	5th A	Consolation



1st Prize Shruti Tiwari



2nd Prize Shruti Pathak



3rd Prize Risheet Singh



Consolation Prize Kavisha

Group B (9th -12th Std.)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Ambuj Gupta	La Martiniere College	10th B	First
2.	Riya Patel	Seth M R Jaipuria School	12th D	Second
3.	Bhavana Yadav	Seth M R Jaipuria School	12th B	Third
4.	Simran Verma	Mount Carmel	9th A	Consolation
5.	Shraddha Tiwari	M G M Inter College	12th	Consolation



1st Prize Ambuj Gupta



2nd Prize Riya Patel



3rd Prize Bhavana Yadav



Consolation Prize Simran Verma



Consolation Prize Shraddha Tiwari

Glimpses of Painting/Poster Competition



Students participating in poster competition



Group of students with their posters

Day-3: 18th May 2014

On the third day, a Power Point Presentation on the topic “**Island Biodiversity**” was organized. About 25 students from different schools like K. V. Gontinagar, R.L.B. C-Block, Mount Carmel, S.K.D. Academy, Study Hall, Awadh Academy Inter College actively participated in the event. The lists of prize winners are given below:

Name of the Competition: POWER POINT PRESENTATION

GROUP-A (4TH-8TH)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Smriti Srivastava	SKD Academy	8th	First
2.	Jayant Saxena	SKD Academy	8th	Second
3.	Shivansh Tripathi	SKD Academy	5th	Second
4.	Vaishnavi Srivastava	SKD Academy	7th	Third
5.	Narayani	SKD Academy	5th	Consolation
6.	Kavisha	Study Hall	5th	Consolation

Note- There are two second prize in Group A

GROUP-B (9TH-12TH)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Vandana Mishra	RLB C- Block	12th	First
2.	Harshita Tripathi	RLB C- Block	11th	Second
3.	Muskan Kandpal	Mount Carmel	11th	Third
4.	Nimisha Srivastava	RLB C- Block	12th	Consolation
5.	Aradhana	Mount Carmel	11th	Consolation

Glimpses of PowerPoint Competition



Students participating in Power Point Competition

Day-4: 19th May 2014

About 35 students participated in Rangoli Competition on the topic "Island Biodiversity" from various schools like Riverside Academy, T.D. Girls Inter college, La Martiniere College, Prarthmik Vidhyalay Gazipur, Bastauli, K.V.Gomtinagar, R.L.B. C-Block, Mount Carmel, C.M.S. Aliganj, S.K.D.Academy, Study Hall, M.G.H Inter college, Awadh Academy Inter college, Y M S, Primary Vidhyalaya Paltan Khadri, Jamiya Umiya Habiba Lil Banat, Madarsha Sirutul Islam, K P S, Seth M R Jaipuria school and B N Inter College.

On the same day a workshop on "Plant Identification" was also organized. Miss Riddhi Pandey explained about basic information of the plants in and around your gardens she also told about the medicinal plants and their uses in our daily life. She briefed the participants about the types of plant, leaf and how to make leaf Herbarium. The lists of prize winners are given below:

Name of the Competition: RANGOLI

GROUP-A (4TH-8TH)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Kavisha Masand	Study Hall	5th A	First
2.	Shreshti Gupta	SK D Academy	8th	Second
3.	Aditi Suryavanshi	RLB	7th	Third
4.	Vikas Kumar	Y M S	5th	Consolation
5.	Jahanvi Shukla	La Martiniere College	4th B	Consolation

GROUP-B (9TH-12TH)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Soumya Madhukar	R L B C-Block	10th	First
2.	Ambuli Mishra	R L B C-Block	10th	Second
3.	Aditya Raj Mangalam	K V Gomti Nagar	10th	Third
4.	Talat Uohsin	River Side Academy	10th	Consolation
5.	Shubhangi Goyal	Seth M R Jaipuria School	12th	Consolation

Glimpses of Rangoli Competitions





Day-5: 20th May 2014

About 20 students participated in Nukkad Natak on the topic **“Save Biodiversity”** from various schools and Colleges like K. V. Gomtinagar, Mount Carmel, and S. K. D. Academy and a workshop on **“Common Insects Around You”** was also organized. Dr. Ashish Kumar, Assistant Professor Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Lucknow explained about the various facts of insects such as their evolution, their behavior, feeding, nesting, their identification, threats to insects as well as how to conserve the insects. His presentation included insect watching and identification tips. The lists of prize winners are given below:

Name of the Competition: NUKKAD NATAK GROUP-A (4TH-8TH)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Vishesh Gupta	SKD Academy (JH)		First
2.	Vaishnavi Srivastava	SKD Academy		First
3.	Akshita srivastava	SKD Academy		First
4.	Shreya Chaudhary	SKD Academy		First
5.	Manasvi Shukla	SKD Academy		First
6.	Nipunika Pandey	SKD Academy		First
7.	Aditya Narayan	SKD Academy		First
8.	Harsh Kumar	K V Gomti Nagar	8th	Second
9.	Pushpanjali	K V Gomti Nagar	8th	Second
10.	Anupriya	K V Gomti Nagar	8th	Second
11.	Shashank Gupta	K V Gomti Nagar	8th	Second
12.	Satwik Verma	K V Gomti Nagar	8th	Second
13.	Chetna Srivastava	Mount Carmel	7th	Third
14.	Anushka Abhay Singh	Mount Carmel	7th	Third

GROUP-B (9TH-12TH)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Aditya Raj Mangalam	K V Gomti Nagar	10th	First
2.	Nidhi Singh	K V Gomti Nagar	9th	First
3.	Pallavi Duvey	K V Gomti Nagar	9th	First
4.	Astha Gupta	K V Gomti Nagar	9th	First
5.	Aditi Tiwari	K V Gomti Nagar	9th	First
6.	Divya Sharma	K V Gomti Nagar	9th	First

Glimpses of Nukkad Natak



Group of students participating in the Nukkad Natak

Day-6: 21st May 2014

An Open Quiz competition on the theme **“Island Biodiversity”** and a Workshop on **“Make your own small pond”** was organized on the last day of Biodiversity Festival. The lists of prize winners are given below:

Name of the Competition: OPEN QUIZ**GROUP-A (4TH-8TH)**

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Priyanshi Rai	RLB C-Block	6th -B	First
2.	Paras Neeraj Sharma	LPS	7th -A	Second
3.	Afsheen Alvi	Saint Anthony S.S.School	5th-B	Third
4.	Shreya Shukla	RLB C-Block	6th -B	Consolation
5.	Vaibhav Raj Verma	RLB C-Block	6th-B	Consolation

GROUP-B (9TH-12TH)

Sl. No.	Name of the student	School	Class	Prize
1.	Harish Pandey	RLB Sec-B, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow	10th	First
2.	Sakshi Saxena	LPS	12th	Second
3.	Simran Verma	Mount Carmel College	09th	Third
4.	Anushka Katiyar	RLB C-Block	10th	Consolation

Glimpses of Open Quiz

Students interacting in Quiz Competition

List of Schools/Colleges participated in the events:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Lucknow Public School | 11. St. Fidelis College | 24. Prathmik Vidyalaya, Gazipur, Bastauli |
| 2. La-Martiniere Girls College | 12. New Way School | 25. Seth M.R. Jaipuria College |
| 3. K.V. Gomtinagar | 13. CMS , Mahanagar | 26. P.M.S. Vikas Nagar |
| 4. Mount Carmel College | 14. Cathedral Senior Sec. School | 27. M.G.M. Vikas Nagar |
| 5. S.K.D Academy | 15. DPS , Indira Nagar | 28. M.G.M. Inter College |
| 6. S.K.D Academy(Junior High school) | 16. Study Hall | 29. Y.M.S. |
| 7. St. Anthony Senior Sec, School | 17. LPC , Sahara State | 30. Primary School, Paltan Khadri |
| 8. R.L.B C- Block | 18. St. Joseph College | 31. Jamia Umia Habiba Lilbanat |
| 9. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya | 19. CMS, Gomati Nagar | 32. Madarsa Sirutul Islam |
| 10. Kendriya Vidyalaya, Aliganj | 20. RLB, Indira Nagar | 33. Vigyan Foundation |
| | 21. Awadh Academy Inter College | 34. Prithvi Enovation |
| | 22. Riverside Academy | 35. St.Thomas College |
| | 23. T.D. Girls Inter College | |

Glimpses of Prize Distribution Ceremony on 22nd May, 2014



Prize distribution by the Chief Guest
Dr. S W A Naqvi, Director, National
Institute of Oceanography, Goa



Prize distribution by the Chief Guest
Dr. S W A Naqvi, Director, National Institute
of Oceanography, Goa



Prize distribution by Shri V N Garg,
Chairman, U.P. State Biodiversity Board,
Lucknow



Prize distribution by Shri V N Garg, Chairman,
U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow



Prize distribution by Dr. Gurdeep Singh,
Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia
National Law University



Prize distribution by Dr. Gurdeep Singh,
Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia
National Law University



3- International Day for Biological Diversity

22 May, 2014



Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD-2014) on 22nd May 2014 at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University Campus, Lucknow. On this occasion, a National Conference on "Island Biodiversity" was also organized in which more than 400 delegates including various research organizations/ institutes, universities, officers from U.P. Forest Department and other states as well as NGO's etc participated. The conference was inaugurated by chief guest Dr. S.W.A. Naqvi, Director, Indian Institute of Oceanography from Goa. He spoke on the various types of Coral reefs in India.

The following books were released on the occasion:

1. A Souvenir on **"Island Biodiversity"**.
2. **"Inventory of Faunal Diversity of Uttar Pradesh"** prepared by **Dr. V. D. Hegde** and **Dr. K. Venkatraman** of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
3. **"Cucurbits: Biodiversity, Breeding and Production in Uttar Pradesh"** by **Dr. Sheo Pujan Singh** from Narendra Dev Agricultural University, Faizabad



Release of Souvenir "Island Biodiversity"



Release of book on "Inventory of Faunal Diversity of Uttar Pradesh"



Release of book on "Cucurbits: Biodiversity, Breeding and Production in Uttar Pradesh"

Shri J.S. Asthana, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of U.P. welcomed the gathering including the Chief Guest, all dignitaries at the Dias and delegates of the National Conference and delivered the welcome speech. He said that United Nations Organisations declared the year 2014 as International year of small islands states and theme of International Biodiversity Day 'Islands Biodiversity'



J.S. Asthana

is very relevant for inhabitants of Uttar Pradesh. He said that activities like domestic sewage and sewage of other industrial units use of chemicals and insecticides in agricultural field mix with sea water through rivers. This leads threat of biodiversity of islands. In addition to this, our actions are responsible to raise green house gases in atmosphere causing melting of glaciers. This leads raise of sea level and due to this lives and biodiversity of islands is adversely affected. In spite of 2 percent of land of world, about 9% biodiversity, 18% population, 14% cattle population, developing nation India is one of the mega diversity country among 12 countries of the world.

The Principal Secretary Forests, **Shri V.N. Garg** and Chairman U.P. State Biodiversity Board spoke on the relation between health and poor environment. He emphasized that issues related to ecology, environment, health and climate change are becoming really urgent as each day passes. He gave the example of a large number of TB cases reported in Sonbhadra district of U.P. due to contamination and pollution of drinking water supply, caused by the effluents discharged by thermal power plants, coal mines, cement and other large industries in Sonbhadra district. The National Green Tribunal has passed orders for supply of pure drinking water through tankers and also installation of reverse osmosis plants at the source of drinking water. This situation shows the need for taking urgent action on the model of development that we must choose. Any development model must take ecology and environment into account otherwise the health of citizens will be compromised. This was also emphasized by Al Gore in "The Inconvenient Truth".



V.N. Garg

He said that conservation, preservation and governance of biodiversity is very important. While the BD Act 2002 is over 11 years old, the awareness of its importance is yet to reach in all over a lakh villages of U.P. Local BMCs have to be set up in all 53,000 Gram Sabhas, also PBR's are to be made in each gram sabha. This is an enormous task. Thirdly, commercial exploitation of natural resources requires regulation, which is currently lacking.

For good biodiversity governance we must involve:

1. Government department and agencies.
2. Local communities.
3. Local governance institutions and local bodies like municipal corporations and district panchayats etc.
4. Government supported institutions such as JFM committees and EDCs.
5. Companies and businesses.

He emphasized on the need to manage our protected areas.

He finally announced that with the partnership of Centre for Environment and Education (CEE), U.P. Pollution Control Board and U.P. State Biodiversity Board there will be 3 main initiatives this year:

1. Running of the Biodiversity Bus in Lucknow district.
2. Environment Youth Leadership Awards.
3. Setting up a state of the Art, Interpretation Centre in Lucknow Zoo.

Shri Pawan Kumar, Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow, in his presentation narrated the origin of International Biodiversity Day and reason for selecting current year theme as 'Island Biodiversity'. He also gave the highlights of Convention on Biological Diversity held at Rio



Pawan Kumar

in 1992, emphasizing the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biodiversity. He also presented the statistics of biodiversity wealth in India and gave more emphasis on island and its biodiversity.

He pointed out that out of 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world six are islands. It is alarming that 64% of all recorded extinctions in recent history on island; for example the Dodo bird of Mauritius was extinct in 1681, Moa from Cook Island extinct in 1769, Nesiota elliptica from St Helena went extinct in 1994. Shri. Pawan Kumar also presented various threats to island biodiversity such as tourism, waste management, pollution, over exploitation, natural disaster and climate change. To combat the changing scenario of islands he also suggest some challenges and also reminded the audience about the ecosystem services of islands.

Dr. Gurdip Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia University, spoke on the international obligations of India under the Biodiversity Convention. He further said that the process of sustainable development is being derailed due to environmental problems. Among the most vulnerable of the developing countries, small island developing State (SIDS) depend on the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity for their sustainable development. We have as many as 52 Small Island Developing States. All of them are gathering at one platform in Sept. 2014 at Samoa. The United Nations Climate Change conference, COP 20 will be held in Peru in Dec. 2014, he added. The conference delegates will continue the negotiations towards a global climate agreement. He also threw some light on Nagoya Protocol and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).



Dr. Gurdip Singh



Dr. S.W.A. Naqvi

Dr. S.W.A. Naqvi, Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa presented his lecture entitled "Marine biodiversity with special reference to coral reefs". He started his presentation explaining the uniqueness of planet Earth in having high percentage of oxygen and less percentage of carbon dioxide in comparison to other planets in the universe. However, the early Earth consisted high percentage of carbon which are now stored in fossil fuels, organic soil, ocean and carbonate sediments. Further evolution of life on earth helped in formation of biogenic carbon. Being of the right size and located at the right distance from the Sun, our Earth is the only known celestial body to contain liquid H₂O in a large quantity. It is considered as ocean is the cradle of life as the life first originated here.

Animal life in the sea is much more diverse (not so for plants!) than on land because of a large variety of physico- chemical environments. The benthic life is far more diverse than pelagic life with 200,000 species. So far about 230,000 species of plants and animals described from sea which consists of 14 endemic animal phyla, compared to 1 on land. Dr. Naqvi explained in detail the benefits of coral reef and its ecology.

He also provided a statistics of faunal diversity in coral reef of India in which Mollusca has a major share. In India Lakshdweep coral has highest diversity with 158 coral species, >600 fish species, 4 turtles, and 278 Mollusc species. Based on the biodiversity of corals Dr. Naqvi provided a coral status matrix for different islands where in Agati scored 3+. He also discussed about natural and anthropogenic threats to the diversity of fragile coral ecosystem. In the recent days ocean acidification is observed as major threat to the corals.

He was of the opinion that effective management requires good scientific understanding of coral reef ecology. Little control on global change (acidification and warming), but local perturbations (pollution including eutrophication) must be controlled. Fishing must be strictly regulated while Eco-tourism must be encouraged. Finally, threatened ecosystems must be declared as Marine Protected Areas.



Prof. B.C. Choudhury

Prof. B.C. Choudhury (Retd), Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun presented his lecture on Island Biodiversity giving history for the concept starting from Wallace-Darwin to E.O. Willson. He also defined what islands are and how they originate. The tectonic movements, volcanoes and other natural phenomenon give rise to islands. Prof. Choudhury also classified islands in to several categories. The island biodiversity is vulnerable and alien species are one of the major threats. Prof. Choudhury gave an example of Brown Tree Snake which is a dangerous predator in Solomon Island which became the cause for extinction of birds, bats and lizards. The island give rise to unique biodiversity and endemism, Prof. Choudhury took up the examples of Galapagos islands to further explain the uniqueness of island biodiversity. Giant sized tortoise (*Geochelone elephantopus*) is available in the island of Aldabara, while heavy sized lizard *Varanus komodoensis* is occur in islands of South Asia.

He spoke of the endemic fauna of Andaman Nicobar islands with examples such as Forest lizard, Nicobar Tree Frog, Andaman Cobra, Narcondam Hornbill, Nicobar Megapode, the Giant Crabs and several marine life. He also gave a list of anthropogenic threats to biodiversity of this fragile ecosystem of Andaman. In continuation of his presentation Prof. Choudhury also presented an overview of biodiversity in Lakshdweep Islands with several examples. However, he showed his concern over anthropogenic contribution to deterioration of island biodiversity.

Dr. Deepak Apte, Chief Operating Officer, BNHS, Bombay, in his lecture presented an overview of marine and coastal biodiversity. He said that India has a coastline of approximately 8000 km distributed among 9 coastal states and 4 union territories. Further more than 20% of the total coastline of the country is shared alone by two islands - Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The coastline also makes the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) with a cover area of about 2.02 million km² enclosed within 2000 nautical miles (370.4 km) from the land, which are basically the areas of the continental shelves and are now under national sovereignty.



Dr. Deepak Apte

Dr. Apte presented a brief statistics of marine biodiversity in India where in fishes, Mollusca and Crustacean have maximum diversity. Also he showed various interesting ecosystems within coastal area which included coral reefs, mangroves, mudflats, sea grass beds, inter-tidal areas, estuaries, coastal lagoons, islands and atolls. Islands boast a truly unique assemblage of life with high endemism. For example, over 90% of Hawaiian island species are endemic. In Mauritius, some 50% of all higher plants, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians are endemic, and the Seychelles has the highest level of amphibian endemism in the world. The island of Cuba is home to 18 endemic mammals, while mainland Guatemala and Honduras, both nearby, have only three each. Madagascar is home to more than 8000 endemic species, making it the nation with the highest number of endemic species in sub-Saharan Africa. However, island biodiversity is in threat. Some 20% of amphibians, 25% of mammals and 33% of birds considered to be threatened with extinction are restricted to islands. As per recent record 88% of birds, 86% of reptiles and 54% of amphibian extinctions have been occurred on islands. For India's concern based on threat to biodiversity, he identified 9 sites in the coastal area as 'Critical Habitats' for conservation.

He focused on the developmental activities along the coastal line of India becoming threat to the biodiversity. For example 15 coal-fired power projects equaling 25 GW of power are set to be built on a narrow strip of coastal Konkan 50 to 90 km wide and 200 km long. The proposed Sethusamudram Ship Canal between India and Sri Lanka is going to be harmful for migratory Olive Ridley Turtle. The refineries and ports in Gulf of Kutch are becoming a great threat for Marine National Park. The oil spills and climate change are other existing problems. Over 60% decline in nesting of Green and Hawksbill Turtles due to tetrapods in Lakshadweep. Also, illegal trade and over exploitation of fishes, sea shells have become major threat. Dr. Apte criticized the Indian policy and law say that more needed to be done to save fragile ecosystems.

Mrs. Mitali Kakkar, Founder, Reef Watch Marine Conservation presented her views on Island Biodiversity through her movie "Troubled Waters". The movie was based on the rise in sea water temperature that caused wide-spread bleaching of coral reefs in the Lakshadweep Islands in 1998. The El-Nino current -a natural current occurring every 6-7 years was unnaturally high in 1998, believed to be a direct offshoot of global warming, affected the Lakshadweep Islands. This resulted in widespread bleaching of the corals and the consequent death of many of the reefs. Over time, the destruction of these corals along with the unsustainable local practice of collecting coral shingles for building material made the islands vulnerable to disaster. Mrs. Kakkar who has been continuously filming the coral reef since 1995 could show nicely in her film difference of healthy and bleached corals.



Mrs. Mitali Kakkar

Mr. Rauf Ali of FERAL, Pondicherry presented an illustrative lecture entitled 'Invasive alien species on Islands- a quick look'. He defined invasive species as 'species moved from one part of the world to another through human intervention are introduced'. When they spread and cause economic or environmental damage they are termed invasive alien species. With the flow diagram Mr. Ali showed the pathway of alien species introduction. The characteristics of alien species that help to flourish in new region are high tolerance, high genetic variability, short generation time & rapid growth?, small seed mass, early sexual maturity, broad diet and rapid dispersal and commensally behaviour, but he opined that change in disturbance regime seems to be single most important factor.



Mr. Rauf Ali

Mr. Rauf presented a statistics of alien species in the world and the damage they cause to native biodiversity. In United States of America invasive species are the second only to habitat destruction as threat to endangered spp. Invasive species are greater threat to biological diversity than pollution, harvest and disease combined. Mr. Rauf discussed in detail the damage caused by invasive species in Andaman Islands. Mr. Ali also showed his concern over lack of efficient policy to control invasive species. India is one of the few countries in the world without an invasive species policy.

Dr. A.R.T. Arasu of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai, presented his lecture on the topic 'Biodiversity in island ecosystem of India'. Dr. Arasu started his lecture with the definition of biodiversity and its conservation importance. In his opinion removing a species from eco system means removal of the functions of that species disturbing the ecological balance and sustainability becomes vulnerable. He explained the importance of island at the same time the threat. He presented an overview of biodiversity in Andaman Nicobar and Lakshdweep Islands, also provided a list of new species discovered by Annamalai University from Lakshdweep Islands.



Dr. A.R.T. Arasu

He said that island communities should be educated through continuous awareness programmes about the value and importance of coral reefs and its associated resources. Coral reef conservation and management programs should be implemented in collaboration with local people participation. There is a need to formulate certain policies and laws for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas in order to protect and replenish the coral reef ecosystems and minimizing anthropogenic activities. Also, continuous monitoring is required for reef watching. In order to replenish the coral biodiversity there is a need for active science in finding out optimal symbiotic anemones and corals that will felicitate fast growth and maximum reproduction of Clown fish, anesthetization of marine ornamentals for stress free transportation, selective breeding of genetically superior marine ornamental fishes using molecular markers, technology development for the hatchery production of marine ornamental invertebrates (Sea-anemones and ornamental shrimps), and coral propagation for sustainable marine aquarium trade.

Dr. Dhruv Sen Singh of University of Lucknow presented his lecture on Climate Change and Island Biodiversity. Dr. Singh is of the opinion that 'as environmental conditions change, the balance between formation of new species and extinction of existing species determines the earth's biodiversity'. While discussing the natural causes for changes in biodiversity he opined that 'tectonic plate movements, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and climate change have shifted wildlife habitats, wiped out large numbers of species, and created opportunities for the evolution of new species'.



Dr. Dhruv Sen Singh

Dr. Singh agreed that pollution and climate changes are becoming the major reason for extinction of species. He showed the pictures of melting glaciers and icebergs as indicators of climate change. However, he wondered where all the water from melting glacier is going. With the example of Kedarnath area satellite imagery he opined that actually water is not reducing in the Mandakini river. At the same time he opined that climate change is good for evolution of new species. He said 'it shows that increase and decrease in the percentage of carbon dioxide, rise and fall of global temperature, retreat and advancement of glaciers, extinction and evolution of fauna and flora, (Dry and humid, cold and warm climatic stages) are natural cycles. Therefore, all the global climatic and environmental changes are natural, not anthropogenic'. Natural resources are finite. The environment gives us all the basic services free of charge, without which our species cannot survive. We Homo sapiens degrade and continue to degrade our environment with the over exploitation of nature. Massive deforestation and uncontrolled urbanization have led to environmental degradation never witnessed so far. The aim of Science is to provide a balance between development and nature in the society. Ignorance of scientific facts and natural law due to anthropogenic activity leads to disasters. Therefore our development should be sustainable to avoid/mitigate such disasters. He said that it is our fundamental duty to preserve it so that we can hand over our generation a green and clean earth.



Elephants

Courtesy : Neeraj Mishra

Photography Contest:

On this occasion, a photography contest was also organized for the public by U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow on the theme "Biodiversity of Uttar Pradesh", in which only photos from Uttar Pradesh were invited. Overall, 60 photographs related to the theme were received. The photography contest was evaluated by Shri Anil Risal Singh, President, Lucknow Camera Club, Lucknow and the following were adjudged as First, Second and Third prize winners of the photography contest:

Sl No.	Name of the Participants	Title of the picture	Result
1	Shri Neeraj Mishra	Great White Pelicans at Soorsarovar Lake	First
2	Shri K. Praveen Rao	Every Drop of Water is Precious	Second
3	Shri Sanjay Tiwari	Lesser Whistling Teal and Gharial	Third



1st prize Shri Neeraj Mishra



2nd prize Shri K. Praveen Rao



3rd prize Shri Sanjay Tiwari

4. World Environment Day

5th June, 2014



World Environment Day
5 June

World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years it has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries. It also serves as the **'people's day'** for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet.

World Environment day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 on the day that United Nations Conference on the Human Environment began. The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973. Since then it is hosted every year by a different city with a different theme. The UN General Assembly declared 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow celebrated **"World Environment Day"** on 5th June, 2014 in collaboration with Zoology Department of Lucknow University, Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow and Directorate of Environment, U. P., Lucknow. The theme of this year was **"RAISE YOUR VOICE NOT THE SEA LEVEL"**.

On this occasion, a stall at Regional Science City, Aliganj Lucknow was organized to create awareness to **Say No to Polythene** and **Plant more trees** to make our environment clean and green. At the stall the public was requested to comment on a cloth to say about **"Save and improve the environment around them"**.

Hand-made paper bags and biodegradable bags were also distributed free of cost to the common man to create awareness and an appeal to take cloth bags to the market for buying things and refuse to take polythene.

Plants were also distributed to the public, so as to motivate them to make Lucknow more Clean and Green. During the event Mr Umesh Kumar Project coordinator, Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow and Dr. Amita Kanaujia Associate Professor, Deptt. of Zoology, University of Lucknow interacted with the students and public. They were explained the harmful effects of polythene and benefits of plantations. The volunteers exchanged the polythene bags with the biodegradable bags and the public happily accepted the exchange.

A view of Awareness Stall



Awareness Material distributed at Campaign



Cloth Bag



Handbills



Newspaper packets

5. Newspaper Clippings

(i) International News

LUCKNOW
THE HINDU • SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014

Polar bears may hold key to healthy heart

NEW YORK: Polar bears are the most fat-obsessed beasts but have healthy hearts and this may hold the genetic key for humans to avoid heart disease, promising new research has found.

Up to half of the body weight of polar bears consists of fat and their blood cholesterol levels are high enough to cause cardiovascular disease in humans.

"The life of a polar bear revolves around fat. Nursing cubs rely on milk that can be up to 30 per cent fat and adults eat primarily blubber of marine mammal prey," explained Eline Lorenzen of University of California Berkeley.

Polar bears have large fat deposits under their skin.

Since they do not have access to fresh water for most of the year, they rely on metabolic water which is a by-product of the breakdown of fat. To understand this, Lorenzen and her team looked at the genomes of 79 polar bears from Greenland and 10 brown bears from different locations



DISEASE, SHM-ISEASE: A polar bear holds onto a piece of meat along the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Manitoba.

PHOTO: REUTERS

around the globe.

They discovered that mutations in genes involved in cardiovascular function allowed polar bears to rapidly evolve the ability to consume a fatty diet without developing high rates of heart disease.

One such gene, called APOB, is known to play a role in moving cholesterol from the bloodstream into cells, thus reducing the risk of heart disease, said the study published in the journal *Cell*. — IANS

10 May, 2014 : Adult polar bears eat primarily blubber of marine mammal prey which is very high in fat so they have large fat deposits under their skin. Not having access to fresh water for most of the year, they rely on metabolic water which is a byproduct of the breakdown of fat. A gene called APOB moves cholesterol from blood stream into cells, reducing risk of heart disease.

LUCKNOW
THE HINDU • FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2014

300 new species found in Greater Mekong

Damian Carrington

A series of high-flying creatures, including giant flying frogs and squirrels and a parachute gecko, are among the hundreds of exotic new species recently discovered in the greater Mekong region in southeast Asia.

A new eyeless spider and a fish that mates head-to-head are also highlighted in a report from World Wildlife Fund on the extraordinary biodiversity in the forests surrounding the Mekong river, which runs through Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and China, and is also home to about 325 million people.

High extinction rates

The discovery of over 300 new species of animals, fish and plants in the region in 2012-13 comes as scientists revealed that human activities such as the destruction of habitats, hunting and the pollution of land and water have driven extinction rates to 1000 times faster than the natural rate.

"Most species remain unknown to science and they likely face greater threats than the ones we do know," said Professor Stuart Pimm, an ecologist at Duke University in North Carolina, U.S., and who led the new study published in *Science*. Without urgent action, he said, further rises in extinction rates are likely, heralding what many believe could become the sixth mass extinction in Earth's history.

The discoveries in the Mekong region illustrate how, even as many species are dying out, new animals can be revealed even in heavily populated areas. The new species of red-and-white-furred flying squirrel was discovered on sale in a bush meat market in Laos. In Cambodia, a new tailorbird warbler was found hiding in plain sight in the capital Phnom Penh, during routine checks for

avian flu. "The species discoveries affirm the Greater Mekong as one of the world's richest and most biodiverse regions," said Thomas Gray, manager of WWF's Greater Mekong's Species Programme. "If we're to prevent these new species disappearing into extinction, and to keep alive the hope of finding other fascinating creatures in years to come, it's critical that governments invest in conservation."

Among the 21 new amphibian species discovered is Helen's flying frog, discovered less than 62 miles from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. The huge green frog managed to evade biologists until recently by using its large, webbed hands and feet to glide between tree tops and only coming down to breed in rain pools. It was found in a patch of forest surrounded by farmland, highlighting the urgent need for conservation.

Also discovered in Vietnam was a tiny new fish with a very complex anatomy which includes having its sex organs just behind its mouth. As a result, it mates head-to-head.

While nature reserves are critical, Pimm said many threatened animals lived outside them and called for citizen scientists to help conservationists track the species.

— © Guardian Newspapers Limited, 2014



Helen's flying frog. — PHOTO: AP

6 June, 2014 : In the year 2012-13 over 300 new species of animals, fish and plants have been discovered in the Greater Mekong area. The Mekong River runs through Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

Newspaper Clippings

(ii) National News

THE HINDU • TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

Water scarcity may increase man-animal conflict

P. Ojilil

CHENNAI: Increased heat wave conditions, dry weather clubbed with water shortage may lead to more man-animal conflict this season, say the Forest Department sources.

In order to overcome this problem, the Forest department had identified dry patches in the sanctuaries and national parks, where water troughs have been created.

A senior officer said in the four tiger reserves in the State the department had identified Udumalpet and Amaravathi Ranges in Annamalai Tiger Reserve; Kalakkad, Thirukkurlungudi, Papanasam, Kadayam and Ambasamudram in Kullakad - Mundanthurall Tiger Reserve; Theppakkadu, Kurgudi, Masinagudi and Mudumalai in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Sathyamangalam, Hasanur, Thalamalai,



A tusker drinking water from a trough created by officials in the Annamalai Tiger Reserve. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

Thengumarahada and Bhavanisagar in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve as dry areas, where depending upon the movement of wildlife, the department has created water troughs.

Providing water in troughs or cut fodder during dry season is mainly done to make the animals stay within their habitat. Such an effort would also help in reducing man-animal conflict, they claimed.

However, conservationists such as K. Ullas Karanth and N. Samba Kumar of Wildlife Conservation Society have a different view with regard to replenishing water. In a report they observed that one of

the guiding principles of wildlife management in conservation areas was that the natural population dynamics of animals should not be interfered with.

Wildlife populations were entirely different from domestic animals. The wildlife populations must undergo natural stressors such as droughts and diseases and should get impacted by cycles of lower survival rates and densities.

S. Jayachandran, Joint Secretary, Tamil Nadu Green Movement, said providing water in troughs would not be a permanent solution to mitigate the water scarcity.

Instead highest protection should be accorded to water augmentation areas such as Shola forests, grass lands, riverine forests and swamps. Such an effort would only help in retaining water in the forest areas even during peak dry seasons, he added.

8 April, 2014 : The dry spell this year may create more man animal conflicts. For this water in troughs and cut fodder are being provided in dry season to reduce man-animal conflicts.

THE HINDU • MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2014

Udupi's brinjal to go places

Growers of 'Mattu Gulla' hope to expand their market to Gulf countries

Chandrabhaskar

UDUPI: The famous 'Mattu Gulla', a special variety of brinjal, grown in and around Mattu village in Udupi district in Karnataka, is likely to be made available not just in Mumbai and other Indian cities but also the Gulf countries by October this year, if everything goes according to the plans of the growers.

The brinjal, which carries the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, is sought after because of its unique taste. Nearly 500 farmers grow this brinjal on about 500 acres of land in Mattu and the surrounding hamlets such as Kogla, Kavanad, Chirappadi and Pungla.

Although 'Mattu Gulla' is sold in Udupi and Mangalore districts, it has not been marketed in other places. Growers too do not get a good price for their produce. But the Mattu Gulla Growers Association has decided that they will sell their produce to middlemen from the next season beginning in October.

The association has also decided to introduce cold storage facilities to increase the shelf life of 'Mattu Gulla'. "The association will take up the marketing of the brinjal from the next season. This will ensure better price for



Fresh-picked Mattu Gulla. — PHOTO: S.J. VIMARAY

Legend has it that a saint gave the seeds of this brinjal to Mattu farmers 400 years ago.

ships in with fruits for marketing and cold storage, this vegetable will become popular in other parts of the state and country," said M. Lakshman, a farmer in Mattu, who cultivates the brinjal in one acre.

According to Urban Development Minister Vinay Kumar Shetty, in whose Assembly constituency this vegetable is cultivated, a proposal has already been sent to the State government on measures to improve marketing of Mattu Gulla.

"It has immense scope for export to the Gulf, where a lot of people from Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts live. We want to expand its export potential. We will provide cold storage and other facilities which the growers want," he said.

There is a story attached to this vegetable. Legend has it that St. Valerius (1400-1500) of South Malabar, who of the Ashram in Mattu of Udupi, gave the seeds of this special brinjal to farmers of Mattu to cultivate. Mattu is believed to have cultivated the brinjal for over 400 years now.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014

TIMES NATION

Govt drafts policy on cutting emission from deforestation

Its Rollout Will Entitle India To Global Aid

Vishnu Mohan Rao

New Delhi: Taking forward an agreed framework of the 2013 Warsaw climate conference, India has come out with a draft national policy on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

The REDD+ initiative is a global cooperation mechanism under a UN body, focusing deforestation, degradation, and sustainable forest management. It is a step in the right direction for India to reduce its carbon footprint and secure the country's 30% of global carbon dioxide emissions.



ROAD TO GREEN CORNER

It has provision for compensation, developing institutions for their efforts to increase forest cover through a result-based payment system. The money for this is being released through contributions from rich nations. Although only three countries — the UK, Norway and the US — have so far pledged \$800 million for the initiative, the money for this is being released through contributions from rich nations. Although only three countries — the UK, Norway and the US — have so far pledged \$800 million for the initiative, the money for this is being released through contributions from rich nations.

In order to top this, the government has decided to set up a 'national level authority' and set up "supportive institutions" in next 3 years. The present level of forest cover in the country is 69.20 million hectares that neutralizes 11% of the country's GHG commissions.

Setting up a national forest monitoring system, a national REDD+ architecture, governance and information systems and building a credit mechanism of forest carbon are some of the measures of the draft policy.

Financial benefits to the countries in a third category (developing nations) will be provided. The NAFSA and the present level of forest cover in the country is 69.20 million hectares that neutralizes 11% of the country's GHG commissions. The country's forest cover is 69.20 million hectares that neutralizes 11% of the country's GHG commissions.

Setting up a national forest monitoring system, a national REDD+ architecture, governance and information systems and building a credit mechanism of forest carbon are some of the measures of the draft policy.

01 May, 2014 : India has made a National level REDD+ draft national policy and intends to set up a 'national level authority' and set up "supportive institutions" in next 3 years. The present level of forest cover in the country is 69.20 million hectares that neutralizes 11% of the country's GHG commissions.

21 April, 2014 : The "Mattu Gulla" brinjal of Mattu village in Udupi district (enjoys a GI tag also) of Karnataka is sought after for its unique taste. "Mattu Gulla" brinjal is available from January to May. 50 Kg seeds for about Rs. 2000-3000.

Newspaper Clippings

THE HINDU • FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014

FOOT LOOSE

Something to croak about: 14 dancing frog species found

✉ chetan@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Indian scientists have discovered 14 new species of so-called dancing frogs in the Western Ghats, one of the world's leading ecological hotspots.

The discovery of the tiny acrobatic amphibians that employ unusual kicks to attract mates, however, showed that the dancing frog family's genus, *Micrixalus*, was in danger due to a shrinking habitat. The genus owes its origin, dating back about 85 million



■ One of the species of the dancing frogs that was discovered recently.

HT PHOTO

might have trotting croaks over the perennial hill

"They need to perform and prove, 'Hey, I'm the best man for you,'" said SD Biju, a botanist-turned-herpetologist, who is now celebrated as India's

"Frogman" for discovering dozens of new species in his four-decade career.

The bigger the frog, the more it dances, said the study listing the new species that was published on Thursday in the Ceylon Journal of Science. The find brings the number of known Indian dancing frog species to 24.

But the frog species – found in splash zones of fast-flowing perennial hill streams – are in danger since their habitat is drying up due to excessive development, said the research team. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

9 May, 2014 : Indian scientists have discovered 14 new species of dancing frogs in the Western Ghats. These frogs live in the splash zones of fast-flowing perennial hill streams.

THE HINDU • TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

Himachal park is now a World Heritage Site



GREEN THUMB: The Great Hircalegon National Park is home to many rare flora and fauna.

Environ Yordain

INDIA: The Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh was accorded the Unesco World Heritage Site status on Monday.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site Convention at Doha in Qatar granted the status to the park under the criteria of "exceptional natural beauty and conservation of biological diversity."

The GONP has now come in the league of Indian World Heritage Sites (IWS) such as the Taj Mahal, Ellora, Kailash Temples National Park, Khajuraho National Park, Manas National Park, Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve and the Sunderbans.

Need for evidence

This would help in boosting rentacars in the hill State, and Forest Minister Thakur Singh Sharma. What is noteworthy is that there would be no destruction of villages or families living in the core park area.

"What is noteworthy is that there will be no relocation of families living in the run park area."

and their rights had been recognised and would be protected, he said.

The Forest Minister of the GHNP was declared National Park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1973, by the Himachal Pradesh government in 1990. A total of 832 plant species representing 100 families and 427 genera, which cover 26 per cent of the total flora of Himachal Pradesh, have been recorded in the GHNP.

It is also home to a number of threatened species providing them with habitat critical to their survival. It supports self-sustaining populations of near-threatened, vulnerable and endangered species like leopard, Himalayan Black Bear, Pyral's Vulture, Himalayan ibex, Himalayan

serow, Himalayan goral, Himalayan rook deer, western tragopan and chuk pheasant.

The enantiomeric *trans*-isomer and the critically enantiomeric *trans*-isomer are also present.

According to V.B. Mathur, director of the Wildlife Institute of India, the park has been inserted under category III of the World Heritage Convention that covers areas that "contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation."

The inscription comes as recognition to the efforts in conserving and managing the unique natural heritage of the country, said a communication from S.M. Khazdri, Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(With additional reporting by K.S. Naidu)

New gecko species found in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra

Ajok, Dushpande

MUMBAI: A new species of lizard has been discovered in the northwestern ghats of Maharashtra by four researchers from Bangalore's National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and Centre for Ecological Studies (CES).

The species has been named *Cnemaspis Giri*, after Dr. Varad Giri of the Bonihay Natural History Society. The research paper on the subject was published in the prestigious journal *Zootaxa* this month.

The gecko from the genus *Cnemaspis*, or dwarf gecko, was discovered in the unexplored forests of the Kaus plateau in Solapur district.

It was first sighted by Harshad Bhusle and Zarehan Mirza in 2010. "The forests in the valleys at the confluence of

*Cnemaspis girii*

of other goods.

Samuel Pal, a project assistant at the CES, compared the newly-found brown, yellow-spotted reptile with the other 17 species and found no similarities, except for two. "We researched a bit more, asked many specialists but no one could tell us the exact name of our find," said Mr. Pal.

In 2012, Mr. Mirza along with another researcher, Rajesh Sengupta, visited the Natural History Museum in London. "We checked all specimens collected by the British rulers in India. We were convinced after a thorough research that we have found a new species of gecko," said Mr. Mirza.

Dr. Giri already has a snake species named after him in 2012 – *Dendrolathis Giri* – which he discovered in the Western Ghats.

24 June, 2014 : The great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) in Kullu district of HP has been accorded the UNESCO World Heritage Site status for its "exceptional natural beauty and conservation of biological diversity". It has a recorded data of 832 plants species.

28 June, 2014 : A new species of Gecko, *Cnemaspis girii* has been found in Kaas plateau in Satara district in north Eastern Ghats of Maharashtra. "*Cnemaspis*" means dwarf geckos. Geckos of this genus have a unique rounded pupil unlike the cat like eyes of other geckos.

Newspaper Clippings

(iii) State News

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

Lack of oxygen makes life in Gomti a thing of the past

Marine Fauna Dying, Offenders Never Held

Neeta Shukla / News

LUCKNOW: Some 25 years back, Gomti had a thriving ecosystem which gave the river its special character. "The river was full of fishes, turtles, geese and turkeys with water birds and small birds feeding on trees on its banks. But pollution has destroyed the river's fauna," said Dr. Jayashree Shukla, who has been working for the cause of the river since 1980. Ecological degradation of Gomti is alarming and the river is not drinking water at a

WHAT THE NEW MP CAN DO



- River should be treated as an eco-system and protected and conserved like national parks and sanctuaries
- Execution committee headed by commissioner and having representation from departments like forest, UWC,
- Nil. Nigam, irrigation, pollution control board and Ganga basin authority can make conservation efforts effective
- Gomti flows across the entire length of UP and should be given status of state river

READERS' SAY

'Don't litter in name of religion'

We should be concerned about what will happen if the Gomti runs dry as its source becomes undrinkable. The real war could be over water. Apart from factory and industry wastes, I depend on people who throw dustbins, boxes, half-burnt dumps, garbages and wrappers, into the river as a ritual to stop doing that.

They should understand they are not only endangering marine life but also the life of the next generation. I urge citizens to stop throwing trash into rivers in the name of religious practices.

Abul Choudhury Sarkar

JOIN THE DEBATE

- Share your views, pictures at: www.facebook.com/TOILucknow
- Mail at: toilucknow@gmail.com

said Bipendra Pal Singh an environmentalist.

Monthly level of dissolved oxygen should not be less than 5mg/litre. But, the water at several points along Lucknow either shows no trace of oxygen or it is as low as 1mg/litre. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) recorded at every monitoring location has been higher than permitted level because of depleting oxygen levels.

A healthy river should not have more than 1mg/litre of BOD but Gomti has 16-20mg/litre. Pigeons in downstream are not polluted with violence and massive death of fish and other aquatic organisms.

'Recycle used water'

To save our rivers, we have to minimise chemical use and ensure that hazardous material is correctly disposed of. We must also try to reduce use of water and recycle it as much as possible. People should volunteer to participate in cleaning efforts.

Neeta Shukla



LUCKNOW: The government has given a landslide verdict in favour of Rajnath Singh. Now, it's the BJP chief's turn to pay back. In this series, TOI will raise the issues of the city which need urgent attention and set the agenda for our new MP.

minimum ecological level. Domestic and industrial waste has destroyed the river's ecosystem.

In the downstream, along Singpur, due to discharge from sugar factories, there have been several instances of fish getting killed in its stream, Gomti's tributary.

"Due to absence of proper regulatory mechanism, offenders are seldom punished," said Jayashree Shukla in the article for environmental

metals sciences at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, University of Delhi.

Sometimes, sewage, garbage, discharge from factories and other organic material reaching the river through several drains cause shortage of oxygen and kill the fish. Pesticides and other poisonous material, as well as agricultural waste also kill aquatic organisms.

According to Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board estimates, ecological flow of Gomti has reduced drastically by 30 to 40%. Besides, there are more people living along banks and extraction of water has increased too.

Besides, regular monitoring of the quality of river water at Ghatghat (upstream) and Gomti barrage (downstream) shows there has been no fall in pollution level. In upstream, the flow is reduced further.

"Water should be released from Ghats into Gomti for minimum flow,"

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2014

Pilibhit gets UP's third tiger reserve

HT Correspondent

✉ bangoraj@hindustantimes.com

IN A NUTSHELL

- The declaration of the new tiger reserve will also bring in the much-required funds from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to develop the place.
- Uttar Pradesh is home to 113 of India's 1706 tigers. About 30 of them are found in Pilibhit where the Reserve covers an area of 73024.98

hectare situated along the India-Nepal border. There are about 2500 tigers in the world. The core area of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve is 60279.80 hectare and the buffer area consists of 12745.18 hectare. The forests are rich and diverse with mosaic of high sal forests, plantation, grasslands and several water bodies.

LUCKNOW: The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve has been notified as the third tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh and the 45th one in India. The state's other tiger reserves are in Dudhwa (declared in 1987) and Amangarh (2012).

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Besides the tiger, the jungles are home to swamp deer, Bengal florican, hog deer and



leopard. The large carnivores are supported by a very large prey base consisting of chital, sambar, wild boar, hog deer, swamp deer and blue bull. The Chuka Interpretation Zones with nature interpretation centres, cottages and the edge of the huge water body is very popular with visitors.

As per a study by the forest department, the main threats to the tigers' survival are deforestation caused by the ever-increasing human population requiring more land to graze livestock and grow crops, poaching of the big cat and its prey such as deer and wild boar.

12 May, 2014 : Domestic and industrial waste has destroyed the rivers ecosystem. Fishes are getting killed several times in Sarayan, Gomti tributary at Sitapur due to discharge from sugar factories. Do levels are less than 1 mg/ litre. A healthy river should not have more than 3 mg/litre of BOD but Gomti has BOD of 18-20 mg/litre

14 June, 2014 : The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve has been notified as the 3rd reserve in U.P. and 45th tiger reserve in India.



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Published by:

Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board,
East wing, IIIrd Floor, A Block, PICUP Bhawan,
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Phone : 0522-2306491, 4006746
Email: upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com
Url: <http://www.upsbdb.org>

Editorial Board

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